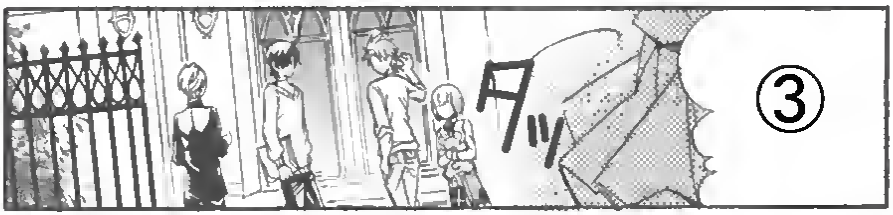
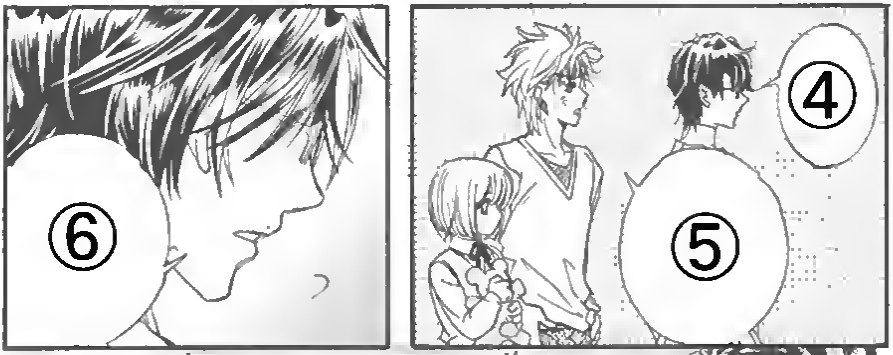
メイドですから!
BUT I'M A MAID
1
SAKAI SAYURI

メイド
ですから!
BECAUSE I'M A MAID!
1
SAYURI SAKAI





READING DIRECTIONS

This MANGA is read in its native Japanese style.
Read the Panels from Right to Left,Top to Bottom
Please follow the diagram!
If this is your first time reading Japanese manga,
It may seem backwards at first,but you'll get used to it!
Let's enjoy it and feel Japanese Manga.

BECAUSE I'M MAID! INDEX

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THE MYSTERY OF THE MITSURUGIS… Page 37

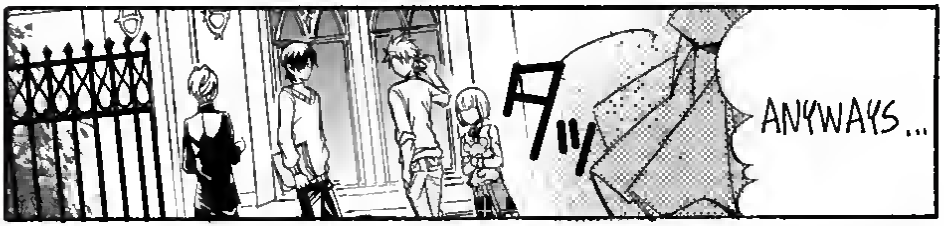
メイドですから！
BECAUSE I'M A MAID!
CHAPTER 1:
BECAUSE I'M A MAID!
酒井さゆり
SAYURI SAKAI

MADAME'S GENTLE SMILING FACE...
I CAN STILL REMEMBER...
AND HER BOYS' LAUGHTER.
THE SWEET SMELL OF MY MOTHER'S TEA.
GRANDMA
TO MEET MY DESTINY!!
I'M FINALLY HERE!!

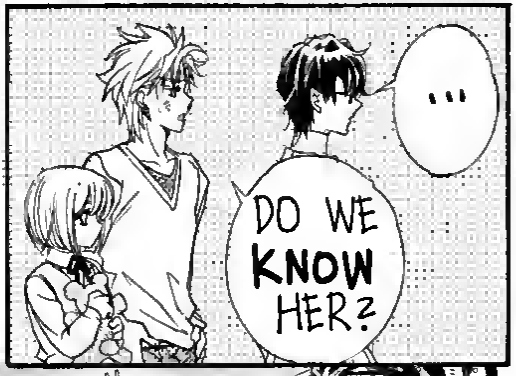
EXCUSE US STRANGE GIRL, D'YOU MIND GETTING OUT OF THE WAY?
I WANNA BE A MAGNIFICIENT MAID LIKE GRANDMA...!!
EITHER THAT, OR YOU SAW OUR AD FOR A HOUSE-MAID...
HUH?
OUR STALKER?
WHO ARE YOU?
OH...
THIS IS THE BACK DOOR.
OVER THERE.
IN WHICH CASE, THE RECEPTION IS THATAWAY.

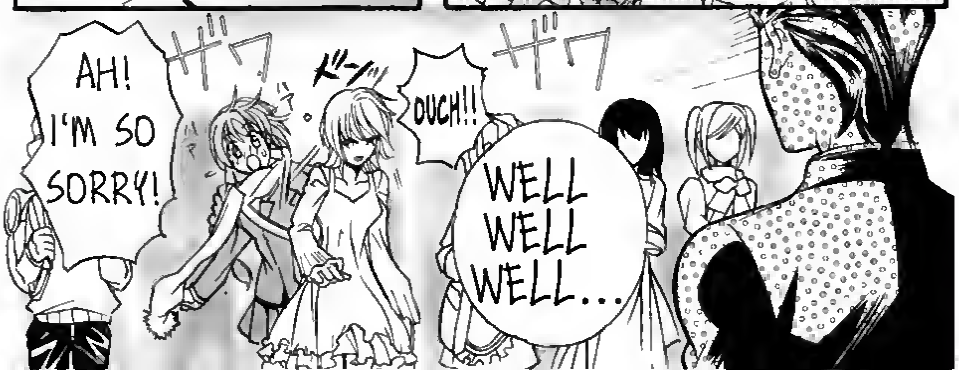
LET'S GO.
NOOO! NOW I'VE REALLY BLOWN IT.
YOU GOTTA BE KIDDING ME?
I AIN'T KIDDING YOU!
HUH?
EXCUSE ME...
SIGH THIS ONE DOESN'T LOOK TO PROMISING EITHER, BRO.
MY NAME IS KAREN OTONASHI.
THANK YOU VERY MUCH FOR LETTING ME KNOW WHERE THE RECEPTION IS!

KAZUMASA! KEIJI!
I'LL DO MY BEST SO WE CAN MEET AGAIN.

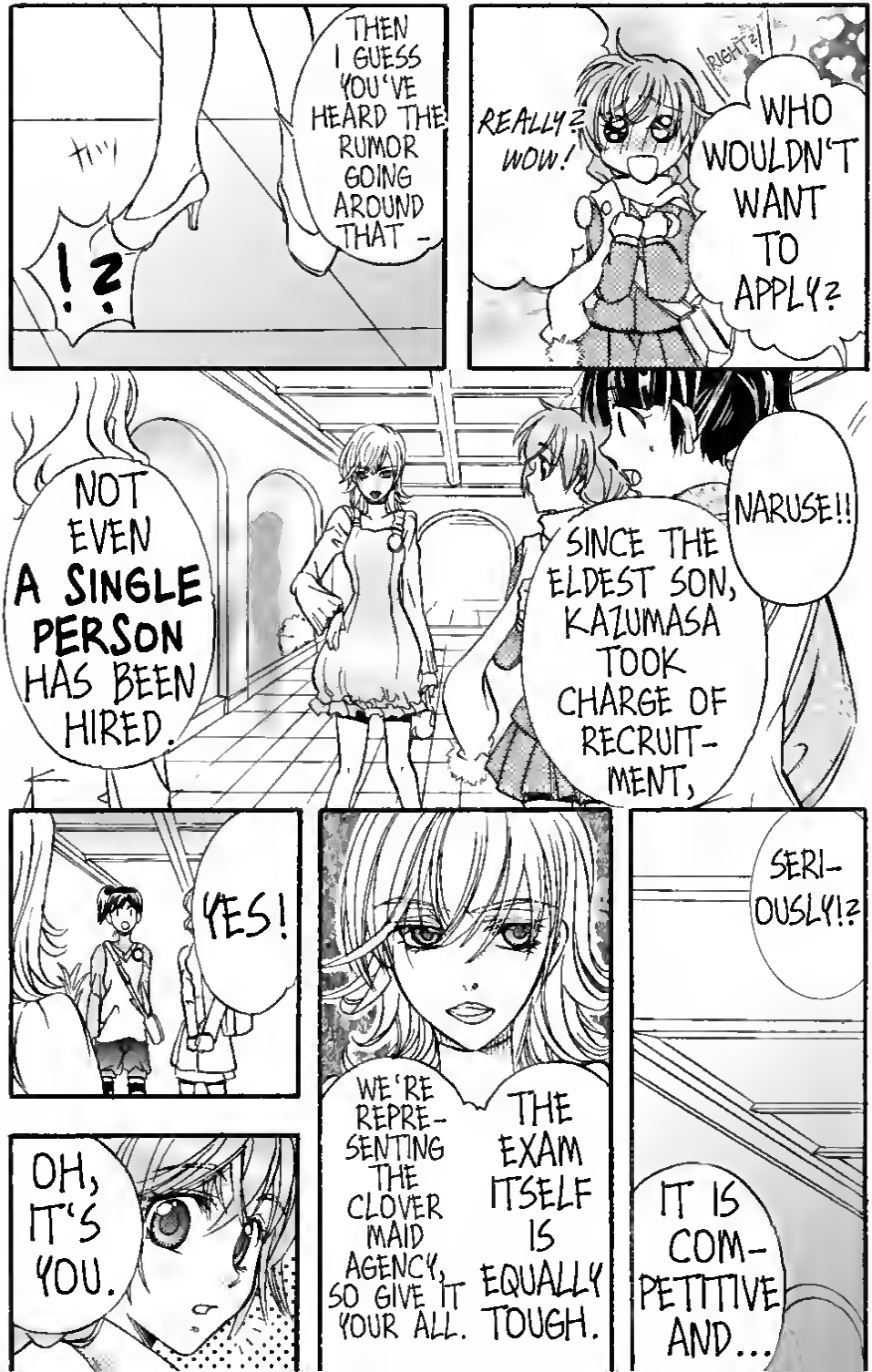

ANYWAYS...

WHO KNOWS? LET'S GO.


...
DO WE KNOW HER?


AH! I'M SO SORRY!
ドン
OUCH!!
WELL WELL WELL...

THANK YOU.
90
HERE, TAKE THIS.
ALL EXAMINEES ARE TO TAKE A NUMBER BADGE AND ENTER THE TESTING ROOM IN ORDER.
THE TEST FOR THE POSITION OF MITSURUGI FAMILY HOUSEMAID WILL NOW COMMENCE.
PHEW! I MADE IT...
RIGHTY THEN, LET'S GET THIS SHOW ON THE ROAD!
2 TIMES
HOW MANY TIMES HAVE YOU TRIED?
OH NO! I'M STARTING TO GET BUTTER-FLIES.
NOT TO MENTION THE CUTE UNIFORMS AND AWESOME PAY.
THE MITSURUGI FAMILY'S YOUNG MASTERS ARE SOME OF THE DREAMIEST DREAM-BOATS IN THE PLUTOCRACY.
THIS'LL BE MY 5TH AT-TEMPT.
LOOKS PRETTY COM-PETITIVE THIS TIME TOO.
YEAH, BUT YOU KNOW


THEN I GUESS YOU'VE HEARD THE RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT -
!?
REALLY? WOW!
RIGHT?!
WHO WOULDN'T WANT TO APPLY?
NARUSE!!
SINCE THE ELDEST SON, KAZUMASA TOOK CHARGE OF RECRUIT-MENT,
NOT EVEN A SINGLE PERSON HAS BEEN HIRED.
SERI-OUSLY!?
IT IS COM-PETITIVE AND...
THE EXAM ITSELF IS EQUALLY TOUGH.
WE'RE REPRE-SENTING THE CLOVER MAID AGENCY, SO GIVE IT YOUR ALL.
YES!
OH, IT'S YOU.

SHE SEEMS TO HAVE IN IT FOR ME!
NO WAY AM I GONNA LET THIS BITCH MAKE A FOOL OF ME.
OW...
THANKS FOR THE POLITE GREETINGS BEFORE.
OUCH!!
ギュッ
SINCE THE ELDEST SON, KAZUMASA TOOK CHARGE OF RECRUITMENT, NOT EVEN A SINGLE PERSON HAS BEEN HIRED.
GRANDMA
I'M STARTING TO GET BUTTERFLIES
WAAAHHH
I MADE A PROMISE...
ギュッ
BUT THERE'S NO WAY I'M GONNA LOSE.
I'M KAZUMASA MITSURUGI. I'M IN CHARGE OF TODAY'S EXAM.
AND SWORE ON MY GRANDMA'S HONOR!!

LET ME EXPLAIN THE EXAM.
EACH OF US, MITSURUGI BROTHERS WILL GIVE YOU ONE CHALLENGE AND WHOEVER CAN CLEAR EACH CHALLENGE WILL PASS THE TEST.
キャーッ
KEIJI~
NOW, WITHOUT FURTHER ADO...
I'LL GIVE YOU YOUR-FIRST CHALLENGE. GOOD LUCK...
KEIJI~ I LOVE YOU~
ALL THIS SCREAMING IS KIND OF DISTRACTING...
MY CHALLENGE TO YOU IS SIMPLE.
MARRY ME~

PUT ON THE MAID OUTFITS PLACED BY THE SIDE OF THE ASSEMBLY HALL WITHIN 3 MINUTES.
BUT BEWARE, ONLY 40 OF THE BAGS CONTAIN MAID UNIFORMS. THE OTHERS CONTAIN UNRELATED CLOTHES.
FIRST COME, FIRST SERVED.
AND ...START!!
MAID OUTFIT, MAID OUTFIT!!
BRING IT ON!!
WHAT THE HELL IS THIS?
THERE'S NO TIME TO LOSE. I'LL JUST HAVE TO TAKE THIS BAG. HERE GOES...!!

WHAT THE F...
WHAT'S THIS?
HUH?
ALL THOSE OF YOU WEARING A MAID OUTFIT, STEP ON OUT.
3 MINUTES IS ALMOST UP.
OH NO!!
20
10

IS THIS THE SUPPOSED PRETTY OUTFIT...?
IT'S TOO TIGHT AND WAY TOO GAUDY.
30
SORRY MISS, YOU'RE OUT.
HMM... SHE IS STILL IN THE RACE.
WELL I MANAGED TO GET IT ON IN TIME BUT...
IT'S TOO TIGHT.
EVEN THE SLIGHTEST MOVEMENT, AND IT'LL BURST.
3 MINUTES IS UP!
OH CRA...
WELL DONE LADIES.
AS WELL AS BEING A TEST OF LUCK, THE PURPOSE OF THIS CHALLENGE WAS TO SEE HOW GOOD YOU LOOK IN MY FAVORITE OUTFITS.
OK! 32 OF YOU MADE THE CUT.

I THINK IT'S FAIR TO SAY THEY HAVE THE NECESSARY SPIRIT OF SELF IMPROVEMENT AND SENSE OF AESTHETICS.
BUT THE FACT THEY FIT IS A TESTAMENT TO THE GIRLS' WEIGHT MANAGEMENT SKILLS.
I'M NOT A HUGE FAN OF THE DESIGN OF THESE OUTFITS,
I MADE IT...♡
A MATTER OF TASTE?
FOR THE RIGHT PEOPLE...
AN EASY CHAL-LENGE
IT IS A TOUGH EXAM INDEED.
MORE THAN HALF OF THE 90 APPLICANTS HAVE BEEN CUT IN THE FIRST CHALLENGE.
DESPERATELY TRYING TO REMAIN CLOTHED...
AND WITH THAT, LET'S MOVE ONTO THE NEXT CHAL-LENGE.

WON'T YOU PLAY WITH ME?
I'D LOVE TO!!
GIRLS' INNER VOICE
HE'S ADORABLE!
キュン
90
IF I HAD TO GIVE AN ANSWER,
I'D SAY BODY STRENGTH AND WHETHER OR NOT THEY LIKE CHILDREN...
WHAT ON EARTH IS THIS CHALLENGE TESTING?
COMMENCING THE SECOND CHALLENGE
キャッ
TELL ME BIG BRO...

IT ALL COMES DOWN TO A MATTER OF TASTE
WE ARE BROTHERS AFTER ALL.
HIS APPROACH IS A LITTLE DIFFERENT BUT DEEP DOWN HE'S THE SAME AS YOU.
OK. HOW ABOUT HE JOINS US THEN?
YOU'LL GET HIM DIRTY!
エホホ
YOUNG MAN...?
エハミ
HOW ABOUT I TAKE CARE OF HIM FOR YOU?
HEY THERE YOUNG MAN. THAT TEDDY OF YOURS IS KIND OF GETTING IN THE WAY.
ギュッ
TA-DA!!
....
I'LL...
NO! GIVE IT TO ME!
WELL THEN, LET ME HOLD ONTO HIM FOR YOU. I'LL BE ESPECIALLY CAREFUL WITH HIM.

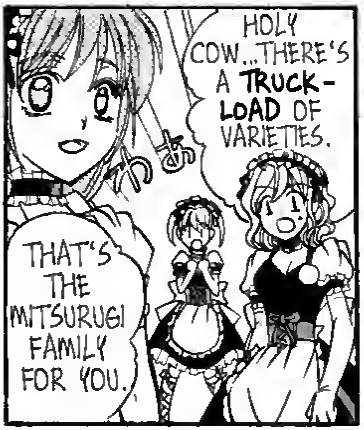
HEY EVERYONE, I FOUND A HEAP OF TOYS OVER THERE.
SEE? CHECK OUT THESE. AREN'T THEY CUTE?
ミーン
HUH?
WHAT A CUTE LITTLE BEAR YOU HAVE.
MR BEAR, MR BEAR, WON'T YOU BE FRIENDS WITH US?
MY NAME'S MISS BUNNY. AND I'M SLEEPY CAT. LET'S PLAY TOGETHER!
ピクッ
FRIENDS?
COULD YOU TELL US YOUR BEAR'S NAME?
THAT'S RIGHT!
HIS NAME IS...

KEN...... MATSUZAWA
KEN? WHAT A COOL NAME!
WELL THEN. LET'S PLAY TOGETHER.
キャッ
キャッ
O...OF COURSE. I THOUGHT YOU'D NEVER ASK.
COME ON, EVERYONE. LET'S PLAY TOGETHER.
BRO?

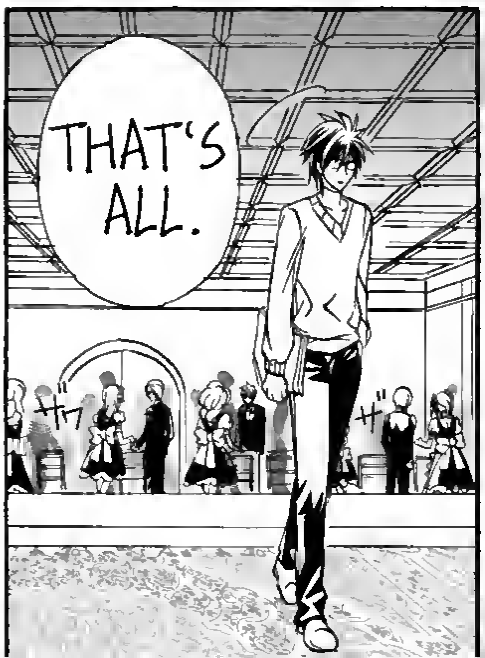
WHAT'D YA SAY? WILL YOU LEAVE YOUR TEDDY WITH ONE OF US?
OK
LET ME...
BUT HE HARDLY EVER SMILES AROUND ANYONE BUT US.
NO HESI-TATION THIS TIME.
I'M CERTAIN I'VE MET GIRL NUMBER 90 SOMEWHERE BEFORE...
BRO?
REI IS SMILING?
IF SHE DOESN'T HAVE WHAT IT TAKES, SHE'S USELESS TO US AS A MAID.
BE THAT AS IT MAY,

19 CANDIDATES MADE THE GRADE.
WHY DO I HAVE TO DO THIS?
I'LL SHOW YOU, NUMBER 90!!
KEN'S BABYSITTER.
THANK GOD THERE'RE SOME DECENT APPLICANTS THIS TIME.
LET'S DO THIS!!
THIS OUTFIT IS STARTING TO GROW ON ME.
AND NOW...
...
YOU SEEMED TO ENJOY THAT. YOU LIKED NUMBER NINETY, RIGHT?
THAT TEST FELT JUST LIKE PLAYING, BUT WHAT'S DONE IS DONE.
FINALLY!! IT WAS ABOUT TIME...
I'LL ISSUE YOUR FINAL CHAL-LENGE.

ガラ
ガラ
PLEASE LOOK BEHIND YOU.


HOLY COW...THERE'S A TRUCK-LOAD OF VARIETIES.
THAT'S THE MITSURUGI FAMILY FOR YOU.

WE HAVE PREPARED A LARGE VARIETY OF GOODS SUCH AS TEAS THAT WE CONSUME EVERY DAY.


THAT'S ALL.

WE WANT YOU TO USE THE PREPARED ITEMS
AND ACT AS OUR WAITERS...

YO, NUMBER 90!!
THIS...
BLOW US AWAY.
WHEN DID SHE LEARN MY NAME?
I FELL BEHIND IN THE LAST ROUND.
OH! NARUSE. WHAT'S UP?
BUT I'M NOT GONNA LOSE THE MAID POSITION TO SOMEONE LIKE YOU.
I WONDER IF SHE'S TALKING ABOUT KAZUMASA...?
ICE PRINCE..?
DON'T EXPECT THINGS TO GO SO SMOOTHLY THIS TIME.
NEXT UP, THE "ICE PRINCE" WILL ANNOUNCE HIS CHALLENGE.

NUMBER 41! THIS TEA IS LUKE-WARM...
NUMBER 56! YOU'VE BREWED THIS ONE TOO LONG.
FRIGGIN TEA CONNOISSEUR...
ゲンナリ
AND THESE SWEETS ARE A POOR MATCH!!
NUM-BER 60...
ヒッ
スゥ
YOU'VE GOT A LOT OF NERVE SERVING ME SUCH AN AWFUL CUP OF TEA!!
I'M SO SORRY!!
わ
SO THAT'S WHAT SHE MEANT!!
NUM-BER 65!!
YES!

...HMMM. NOT BAD. NOT BAD.
YOUR TEA FOR TODAY IS ENGLISH "PRINCE OF WALES" TEA, AND YOUR CAKE IS BLUE BERRY PIE.
IT'S AN HONOR TO HEAR THAT FROM YOU SIR.
NOW I UNDERSTAND WHY THE CLOVER MAID AGENCY SENT YOU.
WOW.
MAYBE NOW YOU REALIZE WHAT I'M CAPABLE OF.
I'M CLOVER MAID'S UP AND COMING STAR.
GETTING A POSITION WITH THE MITSURUGI FAMILY WILL DO WONDERS FOR NOT ONLY THE AGENCY'S REPUTATION BUT MINE TOO.
SO, THERE'S NO WAY IN HELL I'LL LET THAT LITTLE BITCH BEAT ME.
WILL THAT BE ALL SIR?
PER-FECT!!

...OTHER THAN KAZUMASA,
NOBODY HAS EVEN TRIED MY TEA YET...
YOU, TOO.
DAMN! I BLEW IT.
WHAT IS IT THIS TIME? I DON'T CARE IF YOU'RE FULL. AT LEAST TAKE A BITE.
REI?
YES, SIR!!
NEXT UP, NUMBER 90!!
WHAT DID I DO WRONG!?

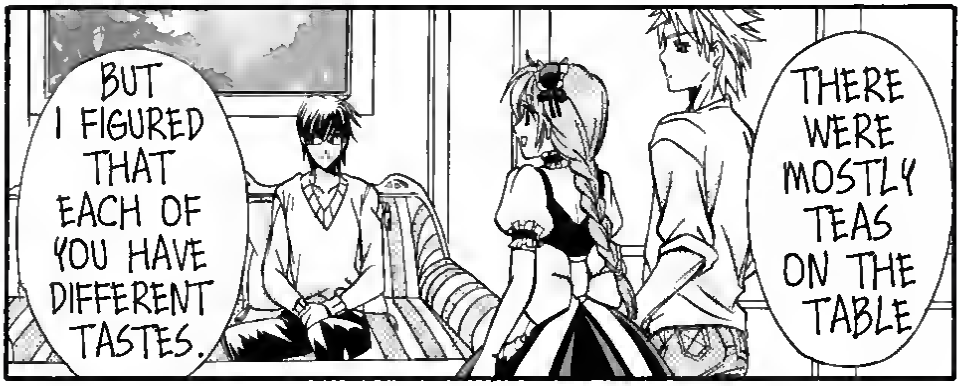
IS THIS ALL THE SWEETS?
90
THIS IS ALL.
I'M NUMBER 90, KAREN OTONASHI. FOR MASTER KAZUMASA, I'VE PREPARED INDIAN KOSTICAL TEA. FOR MASTER KEIJI, JAMAICAN BLUE MOUNTAIN AND FOR MASTER REI, VALENCIAN ORANGE JUICE.
YES..
UM...
I FIGURED EVERYONE WAS FULL YOU SEE...
I KNOW I'VE GIVEN YOU SCANT LITTLE TO JUDGE...
BUT I BELIEVE IT'S PART OF A MAID'S JOB TO CONSIDER THE COMFORT OF HER MASTERS.
...HMMM.
WELL I'VE GOTTA SAY, A COFFEE IS JUST WHAT I NEEDED.
KEN...
THIS...!!

MOTHER!!
BOYS, TAMI HAS MADE TEA FOR YOU.
KAZUMASA... KEIJI...
THIS FLAVOR...
I LOVE IT!
AGAIN?! I HATE TEA.
WELL THEN, FOR KAZUMASA I PRESENT...
OK!!
WELL THEN, HOW ABOUT SOME JUICE INSTEAD?

YEAH?
TRY IT.
WHAT? WHAT'S GOTTEN INTO YOU?
ドキドキ
WHY AM I THINKING ABOUT THE PAST...?
KEIJI...
TRUST ME...
IF YOU INSIST.
THIS FLAVOR!?
BRO!!
!!!
ｱﾘｶﾞﾄｳ.
IT'S JUST AS YOU SAID.
HOW DID SHE KNOW TO CHOOSE THIS ONE?
AHHH, NOW I REMEMBER!!

SEEMS LIKE KEIJI KNOWS NUMBER 90.
HUH...?
YOU'RE TAMI'S GRAND DAUGHTER, KAREN!!
WHAT DID YOU JUST SAY?
I HAD COM-PLETELY FOR-GOTTEN BUT JUST NOW IT CAME BACK TO ME. HOW'VE YOU BEEN?
YOU REMEM-BERED ME!
GREAT.
TELL ME SOMETHING...

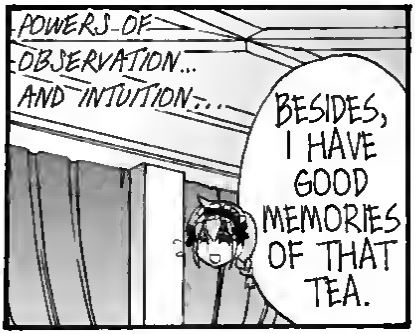
LET ME EXPLAIN.
WHY DID YOU SERVE EACH OF US DIFFERENT THINGS?

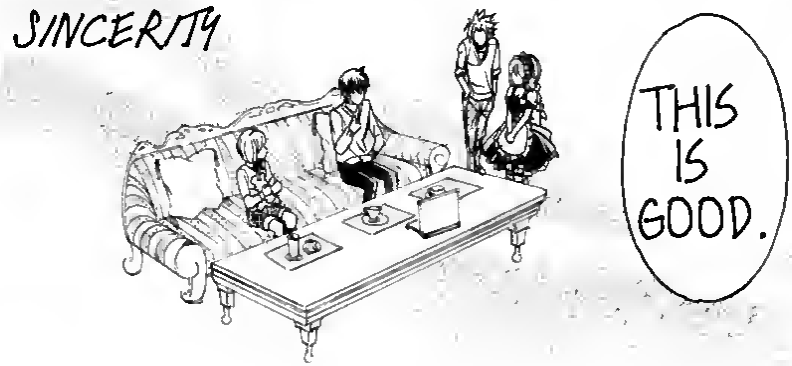

BUT I FIGURED THAT EACH OF YOU HAVE DIFFERENT TASTES.
THERE WERE MOSTLY TEAS ON THE TABLE

THAT'S VERY PER-CEPTIVE OF YOU.
AND I KNEW YOU DISLIKE TEA..
I SERVED YOU STRONG COFFEE BECAUSE YOU SEEMED SLEEPY.
KEIJI,
NEXT UP...
SO THAT'S WHY HE DIDN'T TOUCH MY TEA.
SO I CHOSE A COLD DRINK FOR REI
BECAUSE HE WAS PLAYING OUTSIDE EARLIER.
AND I MADE SURE TO SELECT A CAFFEINE FREE DRINK LIKE JUICE BECAUSE HE'S STILL JUST A KID.

WITH THAT IN MIND I DECIDED TO PREPARE MY SPECIALTY, THE KOSTICAL TEA THAT GRANDMA TAUGHT ME.
WELL, YOU'RE THE ONE WHO CAME UP WITH THE CHALLENGE, SO I FIGURED YOU MUST REALLY LIKE TEA.
AND FINALLY YOU, KAZUMASA.

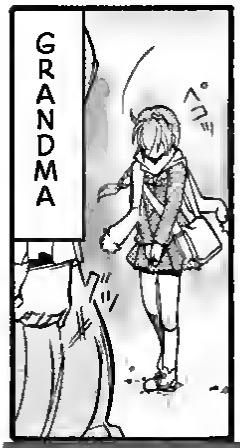
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL...


POWERS OF OBSERVATION... AND INTUITION...
BESIDES, I HAVE GOOD MEMORIES OF THAT TEA.

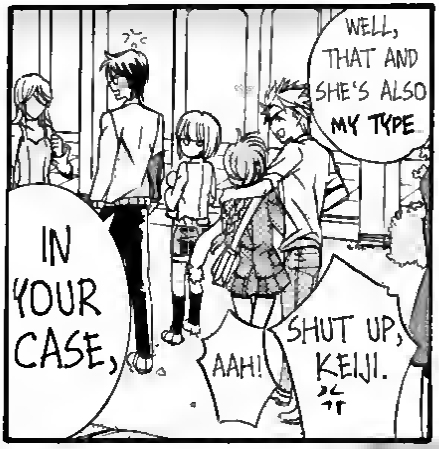

SINCERITY
THIS IS GOOD.

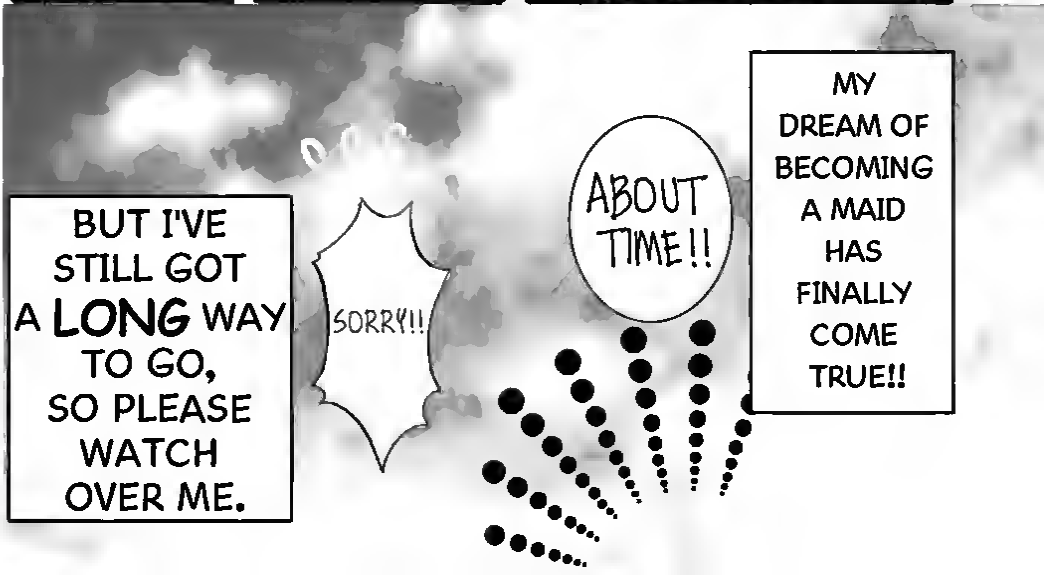
I'LL ANNOUNCE THE WINNER!
I'M AN EXCEL-LENT MAID.
WHY DIDN'T I PASS?
I DON'T GET IT.
YEAH.
AH WELL BETTER LUCK NEXT TIME
HANG ON A MINUTE!!
WAS IT JUST BECAUSE YOU KNOW HER?
...IT CAME DOWN TO HER LOYALTY.
HUH...?

ABILITY AS A MAID IS OF COURSE CRUCIAL,
BUT WHAT WE MITSURUGIS VALUE MOST IN A MAID IS
A SELF-SACRIFICIAL SENSE OF LOYALTY TO US.

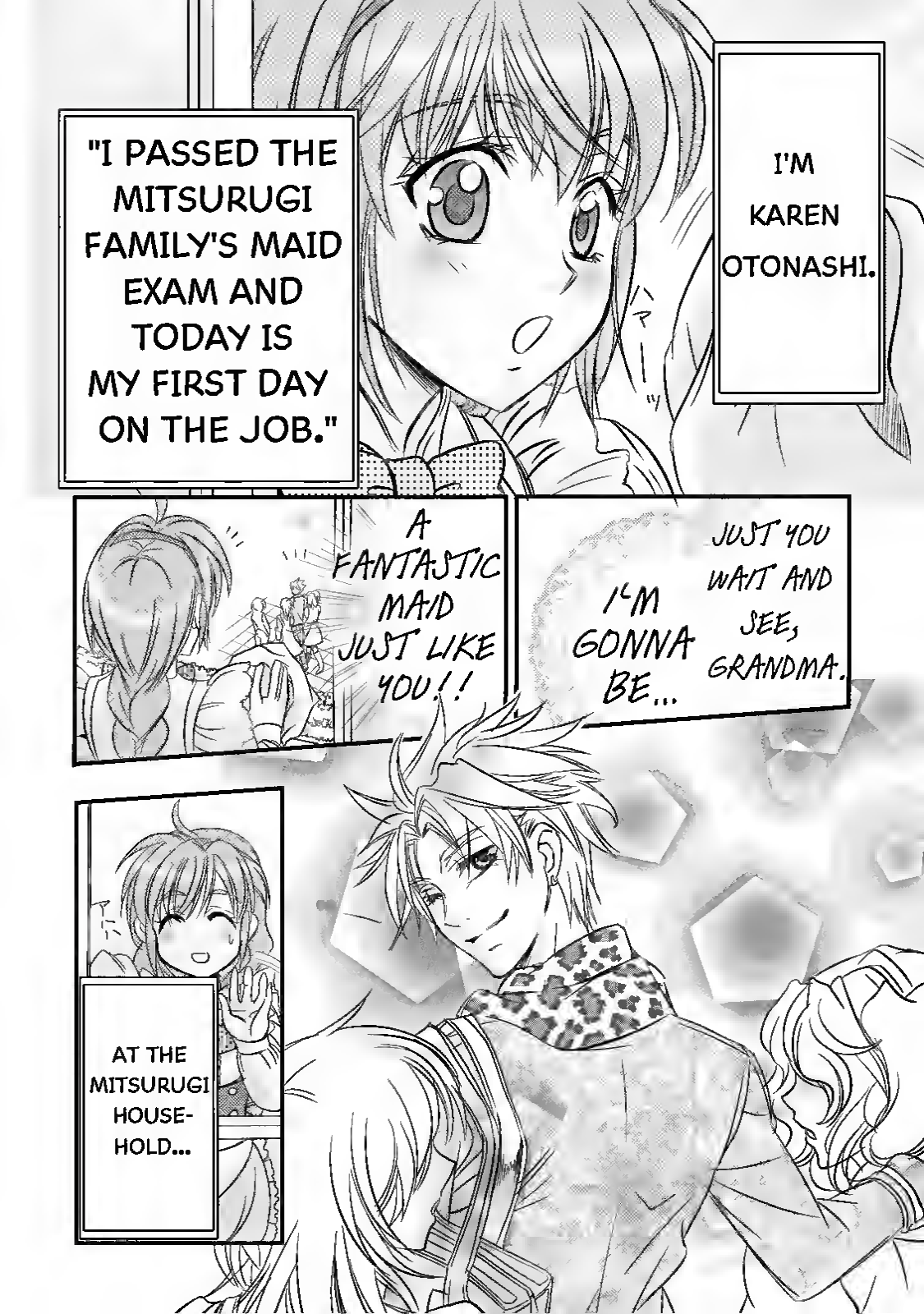

GRANDMA

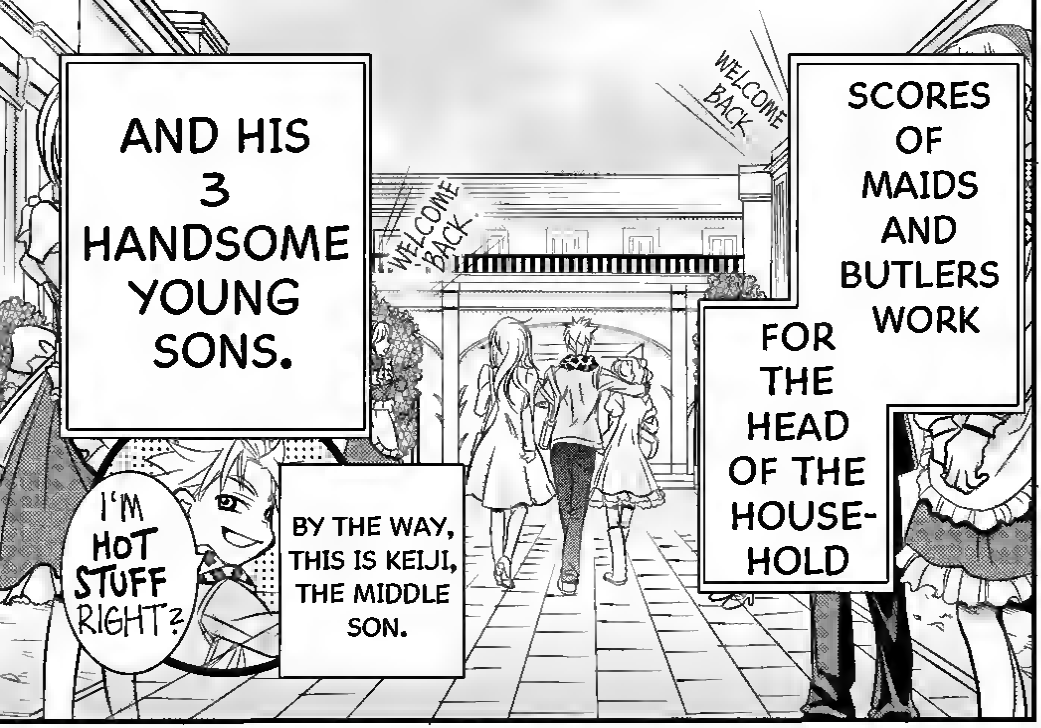
WE THOUGHT THAT WAS LACKING
BUT PLEASE FEEL FREE TO TRY AGAIN NEXT YEAR.

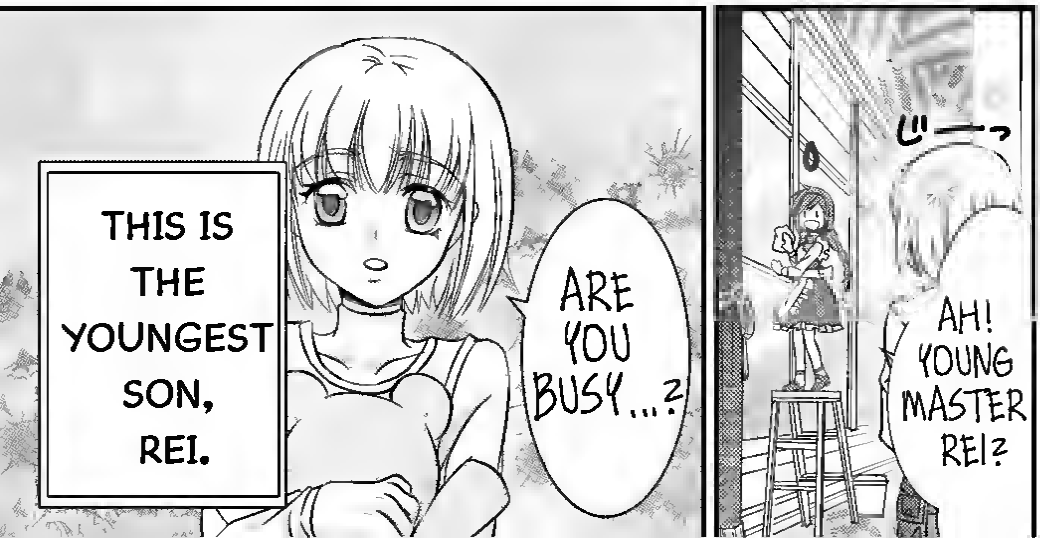

WELL, THAT AND SHE'S ALSO MY TYPE
IN YOUR CASE,
AAH!
SHUT UP, KEIJI.


MY DREAM OF BECOMING A MAID HAS FINALLY COME TRUE!!
ABOUT TIME!!
SORRY!!
BUT I'VE STILL GOT A LONG WAY TO GO, SO PLEASE WATCH OVER ME.

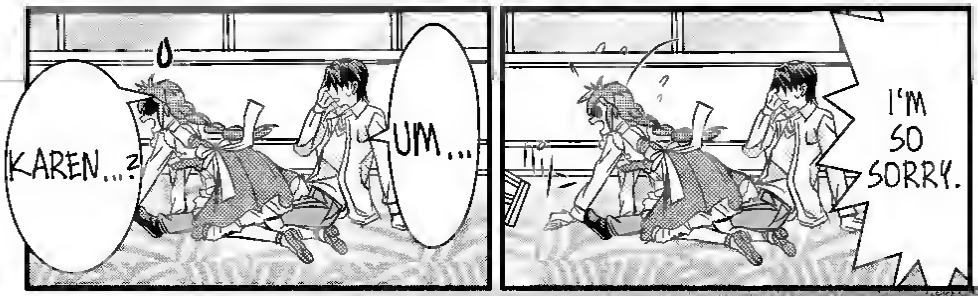
メイドですから！2
BECAUSE I'M A MAID! 2
SAYURI SAKAI
CHAPTER 2:
THE MYSTERY OF THE MITSURUGIS...


I'M KAREN OTONASHI.
"I PASSED THE MITSURUGI FAMILY'S MAID EXAM AND TODAY IS MY FIRST DAY ON THE JOB."
JUST YOU WAIT AND SEE, GRANDMA.
I'M GONNA BE...
A FANTASTIC MAID JUST LIKE YOU!!
AT THE MITSURUGI HOUSE-HOLD...


SCORES OF MAIDS AND BUTLERS WORK FOR THE HEAD OF THE HOUSE-HOLD
WELCOME BACK
WELCOME BACK
AND HIS 3 HANDSOME YOUNG SONS.
BY THE WAY, THIS IS KEIJI, THE MIDDLE SON.
I'M HOT STUFF RIGHT?

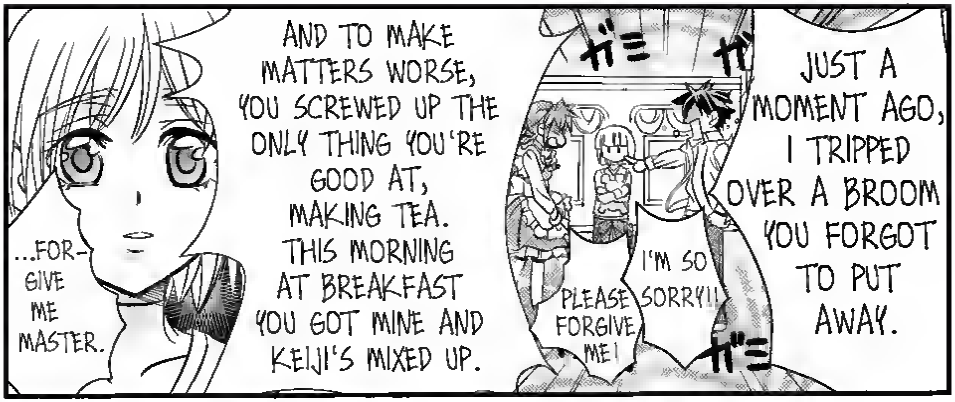

じーっ
AH! YOUNG MASTER REI?
ARE YOU BUSY...?
THIS IS THE YOUNGEST SON, REI.

YEAH SORRY...
LET'S PLAY TOGETHER WHEN I'M FINISHED, OK?
OKAY.
UH-OH!
I'M LOSING BAL-ANCE!!
AAAHHH!!
HUH?
WHO'S VOICE IS THAT? KAREN OTONASHI?
I'M NOT HURT..!?
OU...
...?
O-OUCH
...
MASTER KAZUMASA-!?



A TURN FOR THE WORSE.

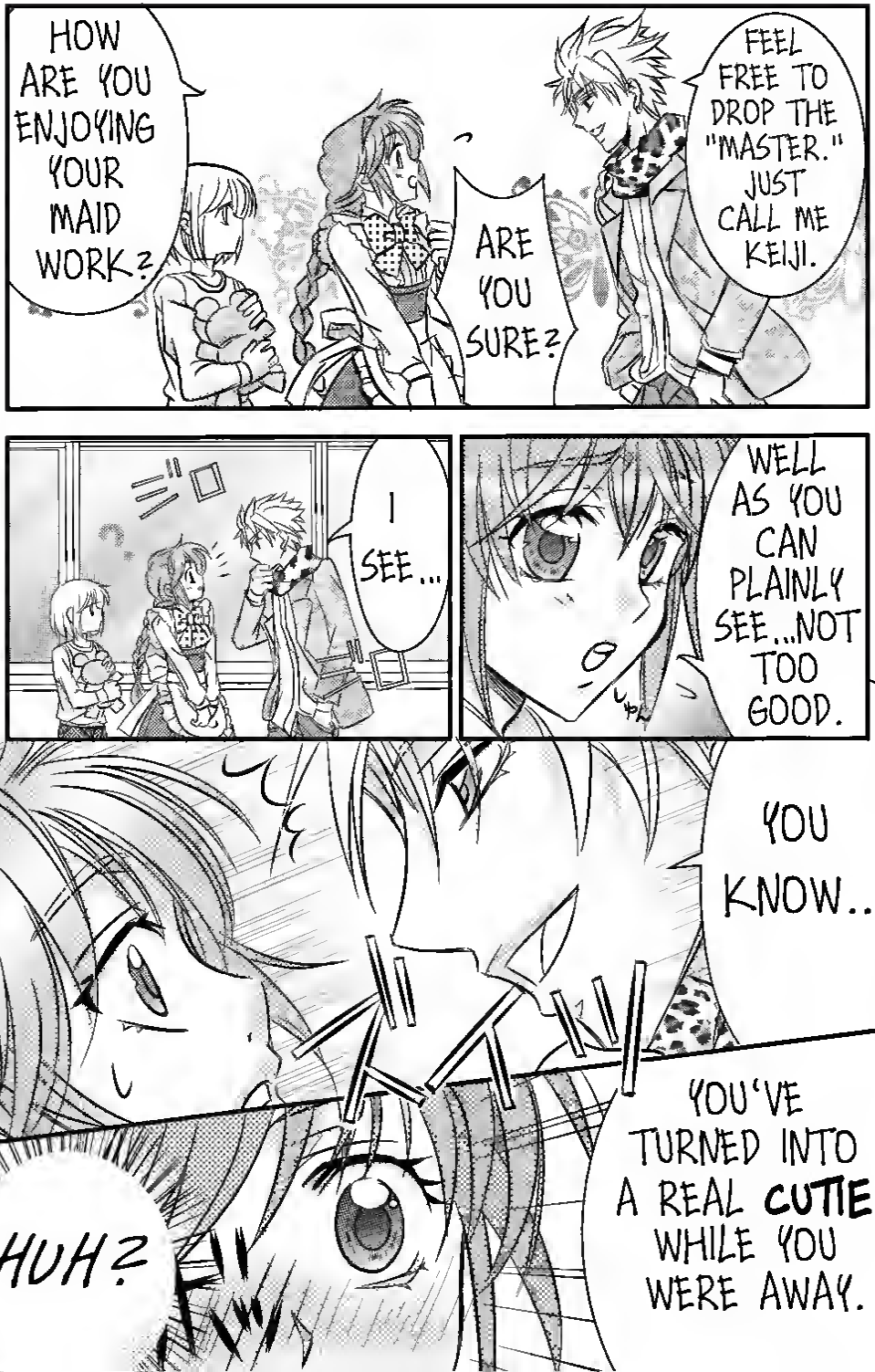
WHAT'S YOUR PROBLEM!? HOW DARE YOU FALL ON ME, YOU LOUSY GOOD-FOR-NOTHIN PIECE OF-!
BROKEN GLASSES
AND THIS IS THE GUY THEY CALL THE "ICE PRINCE", THE ELDEST SON KAZUMASA.

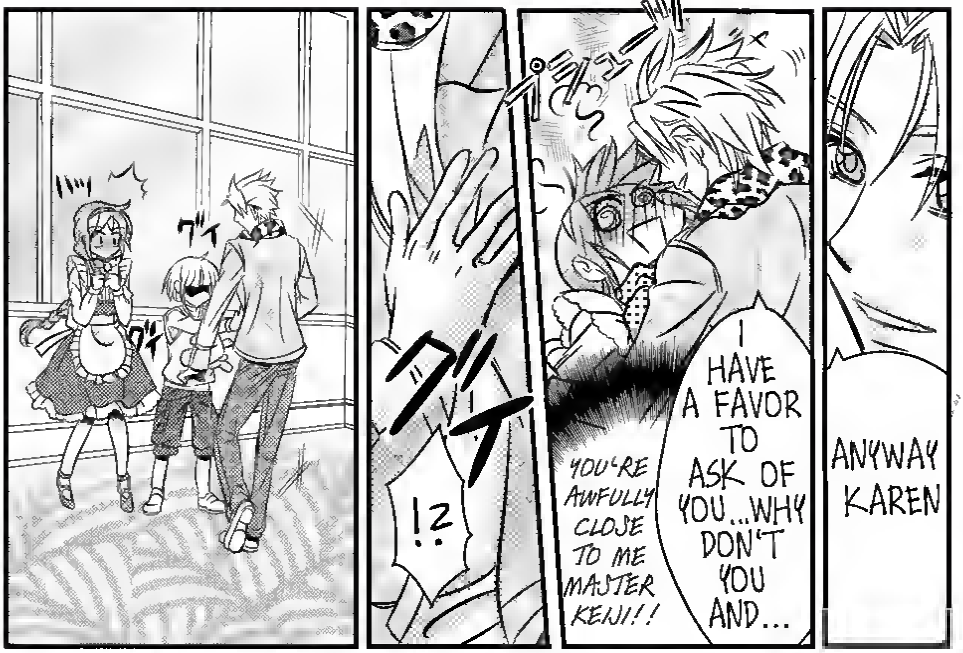

JUST A MOMENT AGO, I TRIPPED OVER A BROOM YOU FORGOT TO PUT AWAY.
ガミ
ガ
I'M SO SORRY!!
PLEASE FORGIVE ME!
ガミ
AND TO MAKE MATTERS WORSE, YOU SCREWED UP THE ONLY THING YOU'RE GOOD AT, MAKING TEA. THIS MORNING AT BREAKFAST YOU GOT MINE AND KEIJI'S MIXED UP.
...FOR-GIVE ME MASTER.

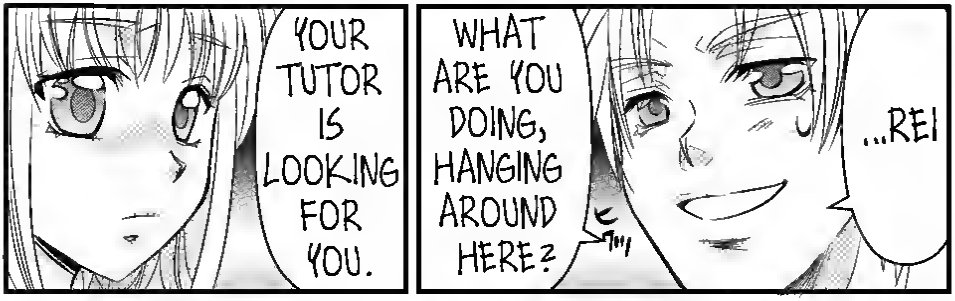
WHY DID YOU COME BACK **NOW**, OF ALL TIMES-
...
REI...

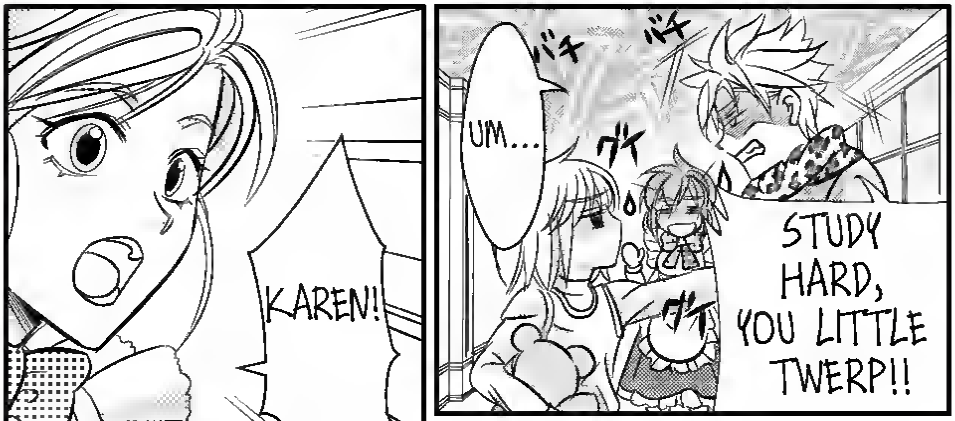
HMPH!
MASTER REI?
YE-YES SIR!!
SEND THEM AWAY FOR FIXING.
FIRE!?
KEEP IN MIND, I CAN FIRE YOU AT ANY TIME IF YOU KEEP SCREWING UP.
LISTEN...

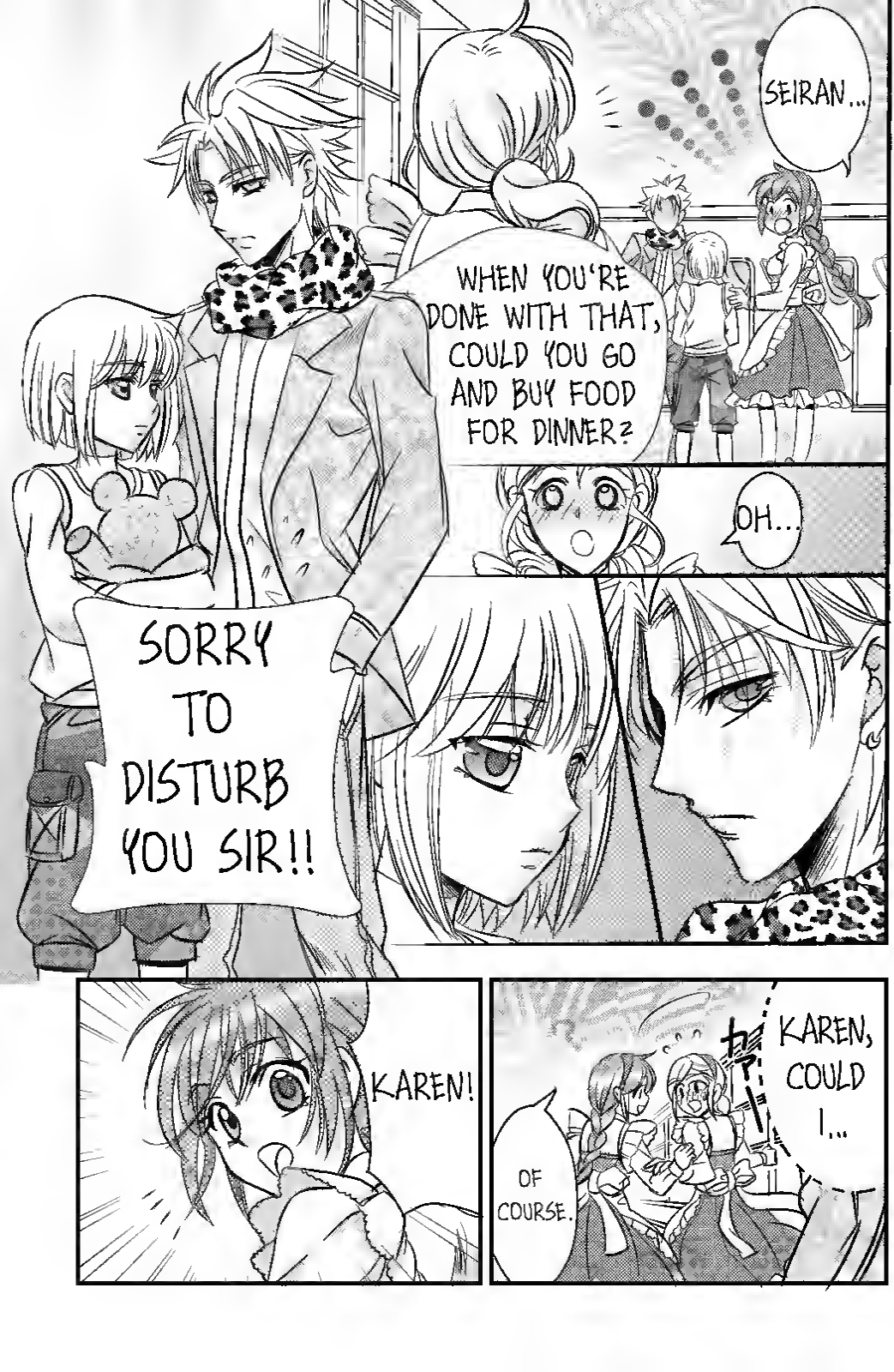
I - I PROMISE IT WON'T HAPPEN AGAIN!!
DAMMIT KAREN, NOW I CAN'T SEE.
KAREN..
WHY DID YOU RETURN NOW?
YO KAREN!
YOU REALLY COPPED AN EAR FULL.
MASTER KEIJI!!!
KEIJI~
OH SORRY. PLEASE GO ON AHEAD TO MY ROOM, AND WAIT FOR ME.
CERTAINLY.

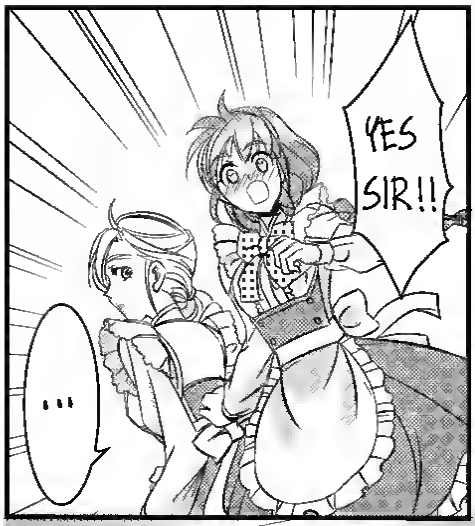

FEEL FREE TO DROP THE "MASTER." JUST CALL ME KEIJI.
ARE YOU SURE?
HOW ARE YOU ENJOYING YOUR MAID WORK?
I SEE...
WELL AS YOU CAN PLAINLY SEE...NOT TOO GOOD.
YOU KNOW...
YOU'VE TURNED INTO A REAL CUTIE WHILE YOU WERE AWAY.
HUH?


ANYWAY KAREN
I HAVE A FAVOR TO ASK OF YOU...WHY DON'T YOU AND...
YOU'RE AWFULLY CLOSE TO ME MASTER KEIJI!!
!?

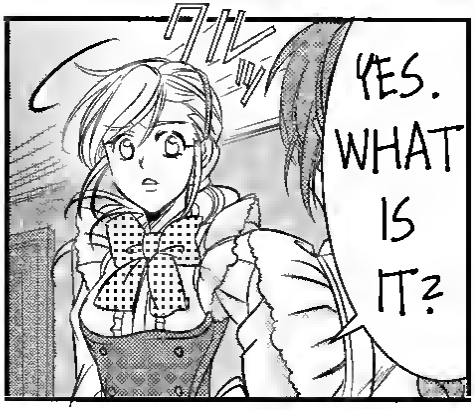

...REI
WHAT ARE YOU DOING, HANGING AROUND HERE?
YOUR TUTOR IS LOOKING FOR YOU.


STUDY HARD, YOU LITTLE TWERP!!
UM...
KAREN!


SEIRAN...
WHEN YOU'RE DONE WITH THAT, COULD YOU GO AND BUY FOOD FOR DINNER?
OH...
SORRY TO DISTURB YOU SIR!!
KAREN!
KAREN, COULD I...
カア!
OF COURSE.


YES SIR!!
...

ピタッ
KAREN


クルッ
YES. WHAT IS IT?

HOW ABOUT WE HANG OUT SOME TIME?
LIKE OLD TIMES!
MASTER KEIJI...
THINK ABOUT IT!

WHAT?
PHEW, I WAS STARTING TO GET NERVOUS~!!
IS IT TRUE THAT YOU AND OUR MASTERS GREW UP TOGETHER?
IT WAS NOTHING...
UM..!
TO THINK THAT MASTER KEIJI WOULD SHOW SUCH FRIENDLINESS TO US MAIDS..
SEIRAN...?
ANYWAY, KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
YE-YES MA'AM.
SEIRAN...?
I WAS JUST A LITTLE STARTLED.
IT'S UNTHINKABLE THAT -
THE MASTERS OF THIS MANOR WOULD EVER APPROACH A MAID IN SUCH A MANNER..

I'VE GOT TO FINISH MY WORK.
OH CRAP!! LOOK AT THE TIME...!
WHAT WAS THAT ABOUT?
COME TO THINK OF IT... I DON'T THINK I'VE EVER SEEN KAZUMASA AND KENJI SPEAKING WITH OTHER STAFF.
WHAT!?
WHAT DO YOU MEAN THERE IS NO HOUSEKEEPER OR ANY POSITIONS OTHER THAN MAID?!
OH... DIDN'T YOU HEAR?
HEAR WHAT?
MAIDS ARE...

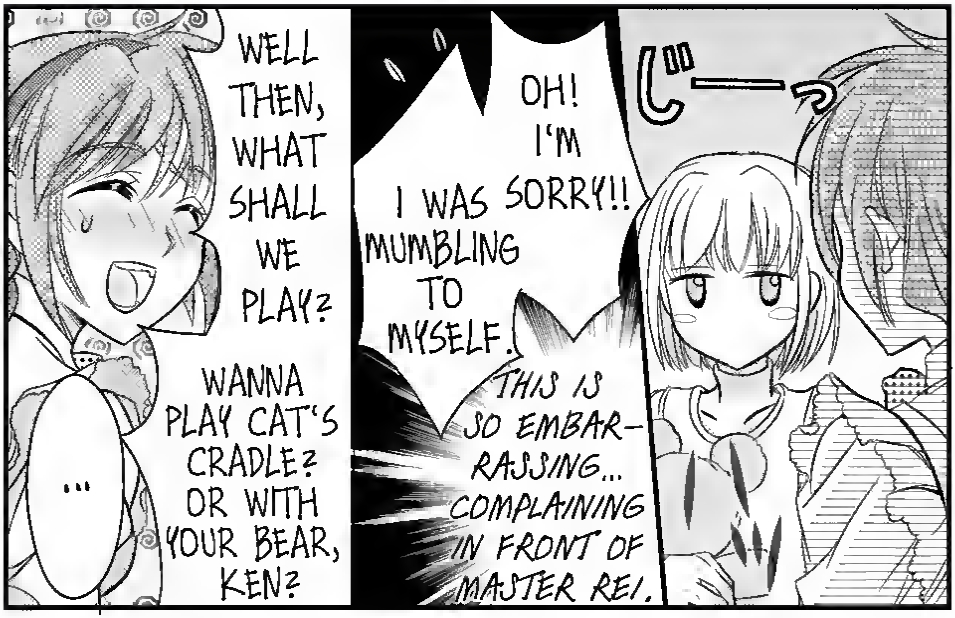
BY FOLLOWING THE MANUAL.
MANUAL?
IN THAT CASE, HOW IS ANYONE SUPPOSED TO DO THEIR JOB?
I'M AIMING TO BECOME A HOUSEKEEPER!!
IMPORTANT
KAREN'S GRANDMA
HOUSEKEEPERS
CHAMBERMAIDS
WAITING MAIDS
HOUSE MAIDS
UNIMPORTANT
KAREN
RANKED ACCORDING TO THEIR ABILITY.
MITSURUGI FAMILY MAID HIERARCHY CHART
AND BY FOLLOWING THE EVER CHANGING INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULES THAT KAZUMASA MANAGES.
THAT'S RIGHT. THE MAID WORK MANUAL CREATED BY KAZUMASA. THE SO-CALLED "RULES OF ICE."
ズーン
.....
OH... AND ONE MORE THING.
YEAH. I JUST ASSIGNED THEM BASED ON YOUR SCHEDULE.
HUH?
SO MY DUTIES TODAY WERE...
INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULES!?
MAID WORK MANUAL!?
YEP. HERE'S YOURS.

I FORGOT TO MENTION IT,
BUT THERE ARE ABOUT 100 OBSERVATION CAMERAS SCATTERED THROUGHOUT THIS MANSION
AND INSIDE EACH MAID'S ROOM.
OBSERVATION CAMERAS!? I THOUGHT THEY WERE SECURITY CAMERAS...
NOPE.
THEY'RE FOR WATCHING US...
ANYWAY, YOU'LL JUST HAVE TO ACCEPT IT.
.....?
DON'T EVEN THINK OF DOING ANYTHING FOOLISH.
AND TAKE CARE WHEN YOU'RE CHANGING CLOTHES TOO UNLESS YOU WANNA BECOME A HOT TOPIC AMONG THE SURVEILLANCE STAFF.
YES MA'AM...

ANYWAY, IT'S YOUR FIRST DAY, SO YOU CAN GO HOME NOW. KEEP UP THE GOOD WORK.
THANKS. SEE YOU TOMOR-ROW.
パタン
MAN...
WHAT THE HELL?!
MANUALS? SCHEDULE CHARTS? OBSERVATION CAMERAS?
NOT ONLY THAT...!!
WON'T EVEN GET TO BE A HOUSE-KEEPER!!

AND WHO IS MORE DEPENDABLE THAN ANYONE ELSE IN THE MITSURUGI HOUSEHOLD
JUST LIKE YOU WERE, GRANDMA
GRANDMA... MY DREAM OF BEING A SPLENDID HOUSE KEEPER WHO ALWAYS LEADS PEOPLE IN THE RIGHT DIRECTION
WHO IS LOVED BY ALL IRRESPECTIVE OF STATUS
IS CRUMBLING BEFORE MY VERY EYES...
WHY WAS THE POSITION DONE AWAY WITH?
WHAT ON EARTH AM I SUPPOSED TO DO NOW..!?

KAREN ...WANNA PLAY?
MASTER REI.....!!
MASTER REI.....?
YES. OF COURSE!
SIGH THE PASSAGE OF TIME CAN BE CRUEL AT TIMES CAN'T IT?
I THOUGHT I WAS PREPARED FOR THIS...


WELL THEN, WHAT SHALL WE PLAY?
WANNA PLAY CAT'S CRADLE? OR WITH YOUR BEAR, KEN?
...
OH! I'M SORRY!! I WAS MUMBLING TO MYSELF.
THIS IS SO EMBARRASSING... COMPLAINING IN FRONT OF MASTER REI.

WHAT THE..?
AH! MASTER REI!!
LET'S PLAY TAG!!

OK. I'M IT.
I'LL GIVE YOU 10 SECONDS TO HIDE
AND THEN I'M GONNA COME AND GET YOU!
I GUESS..
クスッ
YOUNG MAS-TER!!
ONE.
TWO.
JUST BEING UPSET ABOUT IT WON'T SOLVE ANYTHING.
NINE.
TEN.
OK I'M COMING!
YOUNG MASTER! WHERE ARE YOU?

I'VE FOUND YOU!
ビクッ
AH!
WHAT CAN I DO TO SOLVE THIS PROBLEM...?
WAIT!!
I NEED TO CALM DOWN AND THINK ABOUT IT CLEARLY...
GOTCHA!

!!
WHA...
YOU GOT ME...
THIS PLACE...
REALLY BRINGS ME BACK.

THE COURTYARD WHERE I OFTEN PLAYED AS A KID.
THIS IS...
AND GRANDMA AND I...!!
AND MADAM WHILE SHE WAS PREGNANT WITH YOU, REI...
KAZUMASA WAS THERE AND KEIJI
WHEN I WAS STILL IN MUMMY'S TUMMY?
YES!
THE MANOR HAS CHANGED A LOT BUT THIS PLACE IS THE SAME AS ALWAYS...
COME TO THINK OF IT... A LONG TIME AGO...
ARE YOU BEING SERIOUS, KAREN?
YEAH...

REALLY...!?
WELL IF YOU STICK BY ME...
I NEVER WANNA LEAVE YOUR SIDE...
I WANNA GROW UP TO BE A SPLENDID HOUSEKEEPER LIKE GRANDMA...
I'LL PROTECT YOU ALWAYS, KAREN ...
KAZUMASA...
DO WE HAVE A PROMISE?
YEAH, I PROMISE...!
I'LL DO MY BEST TO BECOME A WORTHY HEAD OF THE MITSURUGI HOUSEHOLD.
I'LL ASK HIM FIRST THING TOMORROW!!
MAYBE KAZUMASA WILL GIVE ME THE ANSWER.
2.
THANKS SO MUCH, MASTER REI!!
THAT'S IT! MAYBE KAZUMASA CAN TELL ME WHY THE POSITION WAS DONE AWAY WITH.

TODAY'S TEA IS INDIAN NILGIRI. YOU HAVEN'T HAD MUCH FOR BREAKFAST, SO I TOOK THE LIBERTY OF ADDING MILK AND EXTRA SUGAR.
THANK YOU.
THE FOLLOWING DAY...
YOUR TEA IS AS EXQUISITE AS EVER...
DD
ZOOM
THERE'S SOMETHING I'D LIKE TO ASK YOU!!
WHAT IS IT!?
UM... MASTER KAZUMASA!!
DON'T STARTLE ME LIKE THAT YOU MADE ME SPILL MY TEA!!
WHAT IS IT?
WH- WHY ARE YOU STARING AT ME?

I HEARD THAT THE MITSURUGI FAMILY DOESN'T HAVE ANY POSITIONS AVAILABLE OTHER THAN "HOUSE MAID," NOT EVEN "HOUSE-KEEPER."
IS THAT TRUE?
...IT'S TRUE.
!!
NO WAY...
IS THAT A PROBLEM?
WHY... WERE THEY DONE AWAY WITH?
...WELL, FATHER WAS OPPOSED TO THE IDEA, BUT I IMPLEMENTED IT ANYWAY.
!?

INDEED.
SO IT WAS YOUR DECISION...!?
HUH?
PEOPLE IN POWER TEND TO GET DELUSIONS OF GRANDEUR WHICH AFFECTS THE WAY THEY USE IT.
BECAUSE THERE WASN'T ANYONE WORTHY OF THE TITLE OF HOUSEKEEPER WITHIN THIS HOUSEHOLD...
BUT WHY?
SO I DID AWAY WITH ALL POSITIONS THAT ARE APT TO CAUSE SUCH DELUSIONS.
KAZUMASA!?
I, THE MASTER OF THIS HOUSEHOLD, SHOULD BE IN CHARGE OF THE MAIDS...
I DETERMINED THAT

IF YOU DO, FEEL FREE TO QUIT AT ANY TIME.
!?
DO YOU HAVE A PROBLEM WITH THAT?
OF COURSE NOT, SIR.
AND I HAVE NO INTENTION OF CHANGING MY MIND.
ギュー
SO UNREASONABLE...
ヒョイ
HEY!!
ヒョイ

ACCORDING TO THE SCHEDULE YOU YOURSELF MADE, TEA TIME IS OVER.
SO LET ME CLEAR THE TABLE.
クルッ
KAREN, YOU...!!
ガラ
ガラ
ピタッ
!!
ベっ
THAT WAS HORRIBLE, KAZUMASA...!!
ハダラ
AND WITH THAT, I SAY GOOD DAY TO YOU SIR!!

ピヨッ
ガン
WAS HIS PROMISE A LIE?
WHAT ON EARTH HAPPENED TO HIM?
ガ"ク
WHY DOES HE THINK I EVEN CAME BACK TO THIS MANOR IN THE FIRST PLACE...!?
ガン
WHAT HAPPENED HERE WHILE I WAS AWAY...!?
TELL ME WHAT TO DO, GRANDMA...
AT THIS RATE...

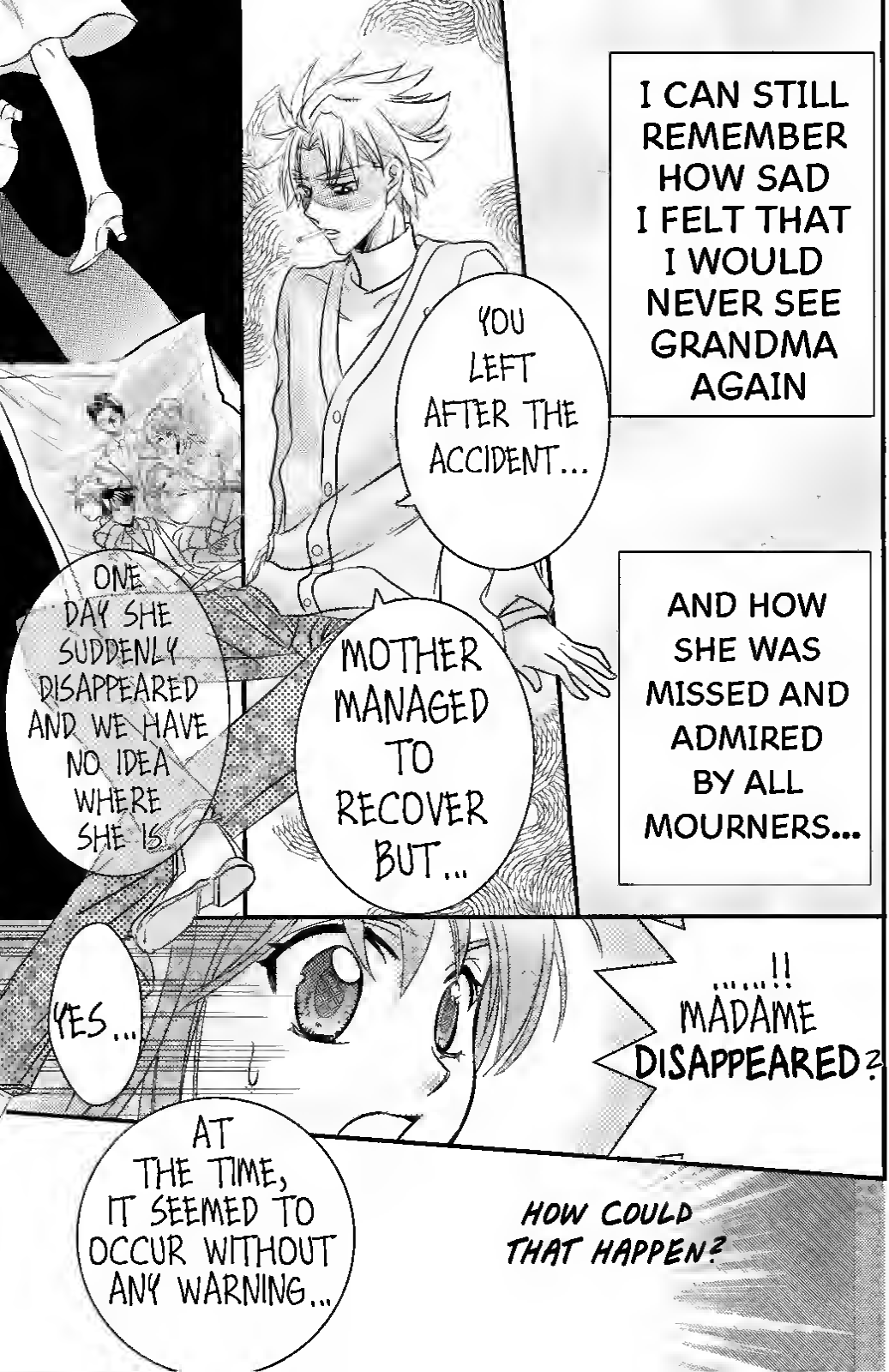
I'LL NEVER GET TO BE A HOUSE-KEEPER.
MASTER REI...!
I'M SORRY. MY BREAK IS FINISHED FOR TODAY.
AND I SEEM TO HAVE MORE WORK TO DO THAN YESTER-DAY...
CAN YOU PLAY TODAY?
WAIT! MASTER REI!!
MASTER REI!
DAMMIT-
FOUND YOU, KAREN!!
WHA...?

うるっ
!?
.....
DID YOU THINK ABOUT OUR CONVERSATION BEFORE?
KAREN!?
MASTER KEIJI!?
HMM..
BY THE WAY...
HMM...
I WON'T QUIT OVER SOMETHING LIKE THIS.
AFTER ALL, MY GRANDMA SERVED THIS HOUSEHOLD.
NO...I STILL AM.
IT SEEMS YOU'RE NOT SO KEEN ON THIS JOB ANYMORE...

TELL ME, MASTER KEIJI
WHAT HAPPENED HERE WHILE I WAS AWAY?
WELL I WANT TO QUIT BEING A RESIDENT OF THIS HOUSE.
!?
...
I'M JUST KIDDING.
KAZUMASA, YOU, THE MAIDS
EVERYTHING SEEMS DIFFERENT NOW...
AND SO DID I.
THAT'S THE MITSURUGI HOUSEHOLD THAT GRANDMA LOVED.
WE WERE LIKE ONE BIG FAMILY.
KAREN, YOU SILLY GOOSE...
OH BOY
EVERYONE IN THE MITSURUGI FAMILY AND ALL THE MAIDS USED TO BE REALLY CLOSE.

PLEASE TELL ME!! WHAT HAPPENED.....?
BUT I LOVE THIS HOUSEHOLD.
I DIDN'T LIVE HERE LONG...
FENDING FOR YOUR-SELVES?
BIG BRO, REI AND I HAD OUR HANDS FULL FENDING FOR OURSELVES...
KAREN...
THINGS GOT REALLY BAD AFTER YOU LEFT, KAREN.
I MEAN... AFTER THE ACCIDENT

WERE INVOLVED IN A CAR ACCIDENT?
YOU MEAN THE DAY GRANDMA AND MADAME...
ギュッ THE ACCIDENT...
YEAH... THAT DAY WAS A NIGHTMARE FOR ALL OF US.
7 YEARS AGO, THEIR CAR COLLIDED WITH ONCOMING TRAFFIC.
MADAME SOMEHOW MANAGED TO PULL THROUGH, BUT GRANDMA...
HER LOYALTY WAS ASTOUNDING...
SHE WAS A CREDIT TO OUR PROFESSION...
I HEARD SHE DIED PROTECTING MADAME.
SOB SOB TAMI...
WHY DID THAT CAR...


I CAN STILL REMEMBER HOW SAD I FELT THAT I WOULD NEVER SEE GRANDMA AGAIN
YOU LEFT AFTER THE ACCIDENT...
AND HOW SHE WAS MISSED AND ADMIRED BY ALL MOURNERS...
MOTHER MANAGED TO RECOVER BUT...
ONE DAY SHE SUDDENLY DISAPPEARED AND WE HAVE NO IDEA WHERE SHE IS.
.....!! MADAME DISAPPEARED?
YES...
AT THE TIME, IT SEEMED TO OCCUR WITHOUT ANY WARNING...
HOW COULD THAT HAPPEN?

NOW LOOKING BACK, I SUSPECT THAT THE HOUSEKEEPER THAT FATHER EMPLOYED AS YOUR GRANDMA'S SUCCESSOR
HAD SOMETHING TO DO WITH MOTHER'S DISAP-PEARANCE.
SHE WAS CRUEL...
VIOLENT, THREATENING, THIEVING, THE LIST GOES ON AN ON
EVEN THE MAIDS WORKING HERE NOW WERE UNDER HER SPELL.
MASTER KEIJI..!
WE LIVED IN FEAR...
THERE WAS A SAVAGE ATMO-SPHERE THROUGH-OUT THE HOUSE-HOLD.
MASTER KEIJI...
SO EVEN NOW THAT SHE IS GONE, WE HAVE TO BE ON OUR GUARD WITH THE MAIDS.

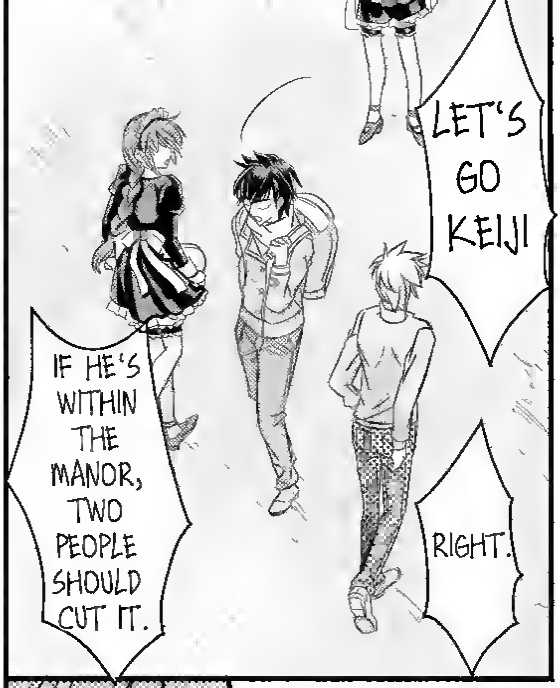
IT'S JUST THAT BIG BRO'S. MISTRUST RUNS DEEPER THAN MINE.
THAT'S WHY HE SET SUCH A GRUELING MAID'S EXAM.
SO THAT EXPLAINS IT...
IT'S HARD TO BELIEVE...
I HAVE NO DOUBT THAT BIG BRO AND REI FEEL THE SAME WAY...
THAT SUCH THINGS COULD HAPPEN...
I CAN'T BELIEVE A HOUSEKEEPER WOULD BE CAPABLE OF SUCH THINGS.
GRANDMA IS THE ONLY HOUSEKEEPER I'VE EVER KNOWN...
MADAME'S DISAPPEARANCE, A DESPOTIC HOUSEKEEPER...

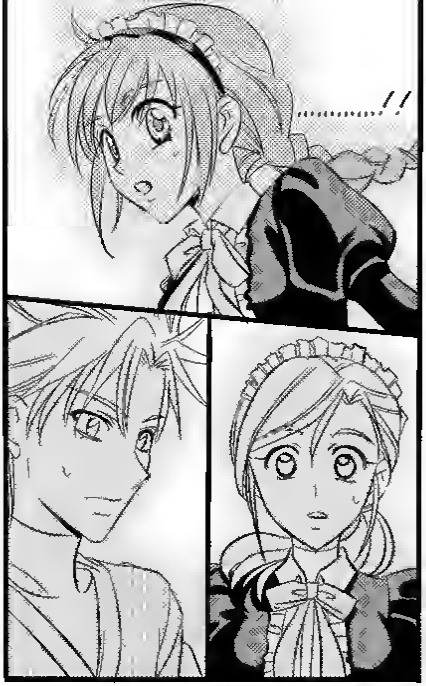
I...
KAREN...
EX-EXCUSE ME!
BUT...
HAVE YOU SEEN MASTER REI?!
REI!?
NOPE. WHY?
.....
...SEIRAN

UM...
IT'S ALMOST DINNER TIME, AND I WENT TO HIS ROOM TO CALL HIM...
BUT HE WAS NOWHERE TO BE SEEN...
WHAT...?!
MASTER REI...!?
IT'S ALL MY FAULT!!
WHAT IF...?
WAIT! KAREN!!
I THINK I KNOW WHERE HE MIGHT BE.
I'VE GOTTA GO FIND HIM.
ドン
ドン

I HEAR REI HAS GONE MISSING...
MASTER KAZUMASA...
OW...
I WASN'T EXPECTING TO BE GREETED WITH SUCH A COMMOTION?
BIG BRO!!
SEIRAN KATSURAGI,
PLEASE SUMMON ALL THE BUTLERS AND MAIDS INTO THE MAIN HALL.
YE- YES SIR!!
WE ARE A RIPE TARGET FOR KIDNAPPING YOU SEE..
I MAKE SURE THAT REI CARRIES A GPS SYSTEM AT ALL TIMES...
KAZUMASA...

SO WHAT'S THE STORY BRO?
UNDER-STOOD. WHAT!?
HELLO, THIS IS KAZUMASA. WHERE IS REI..?
I SEE.
I'LL GO LOOK FOR HIM.
STAY WHERE YOU ARE!... KAREN!!
I'LL CONSIDER ANY BUTLER OR MAID LEAVING THIS COMPOUND AS A POTENTIAL SUSPECT!!
WHICH MEANS REI MUST STILL BE HERE TOO...
THE BODYGUARDS HAVEN'T LEFT THE MANOR...
BUT HIS GPS UNIT WAS PICKED UP IN THE HALLWAY.


LET'S GO KEIJI
IF HE'S WITHIN THE MANOR, TWO PEOPLE SHOULD CUT IT.
RIGHT.


.....!!

THREE PEOPLE WILL FIND HIM QUICKER THAN TWO!!
KAREN!!
LET ME COME WITH YOU.
ガシッ!!!

DAMMIT... KAREN.
DIDN'T YOU HEAR WHAT I JUST SAID?!
BUT MASTER REI MIGHT BE IN DANGER.
I CAN'T JUST STAND IDLY BY IN THE MAIN HALL.
DO YOU INTEND TO DISOBEY A MASTER'S ORDER?
WHAT THE HELL ARE YOU DOING!
LEMME GO!
NOOO!!
AS LONG AS I DON'T LEAVE THE COMPOUND, IT'S NO PROBLEM RIGHT...!?
...!!
I'LL GO AND CHECK OVER THERE.
BRO!
OH, KEIJI!!

FINE.
DO AS YOU LIKE.
YES SIR!
.....
REI! WHERE ARE YOU!?
MASTER REI..?!
WHERE COULD HE HAVE GOTTEN TO?
WHAT TO DO, WHAT TO DO??

KAREN, GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME...
HUH?
I'M SORRY!!
OH!!
...
WHAT IF WE DON'T FIND HIM...
WHAT IF THIS IS ALL MY FAULT...?
ギュー...
TELL ME ONE THING.
カー
I GOT A LITTLE CARRIED AWAY.
しゅん...
WHY DID YOU TAKE THIS HOUSEHOLD'S MAID EXAM?
...YES? WHAT IS IT?
WHY...

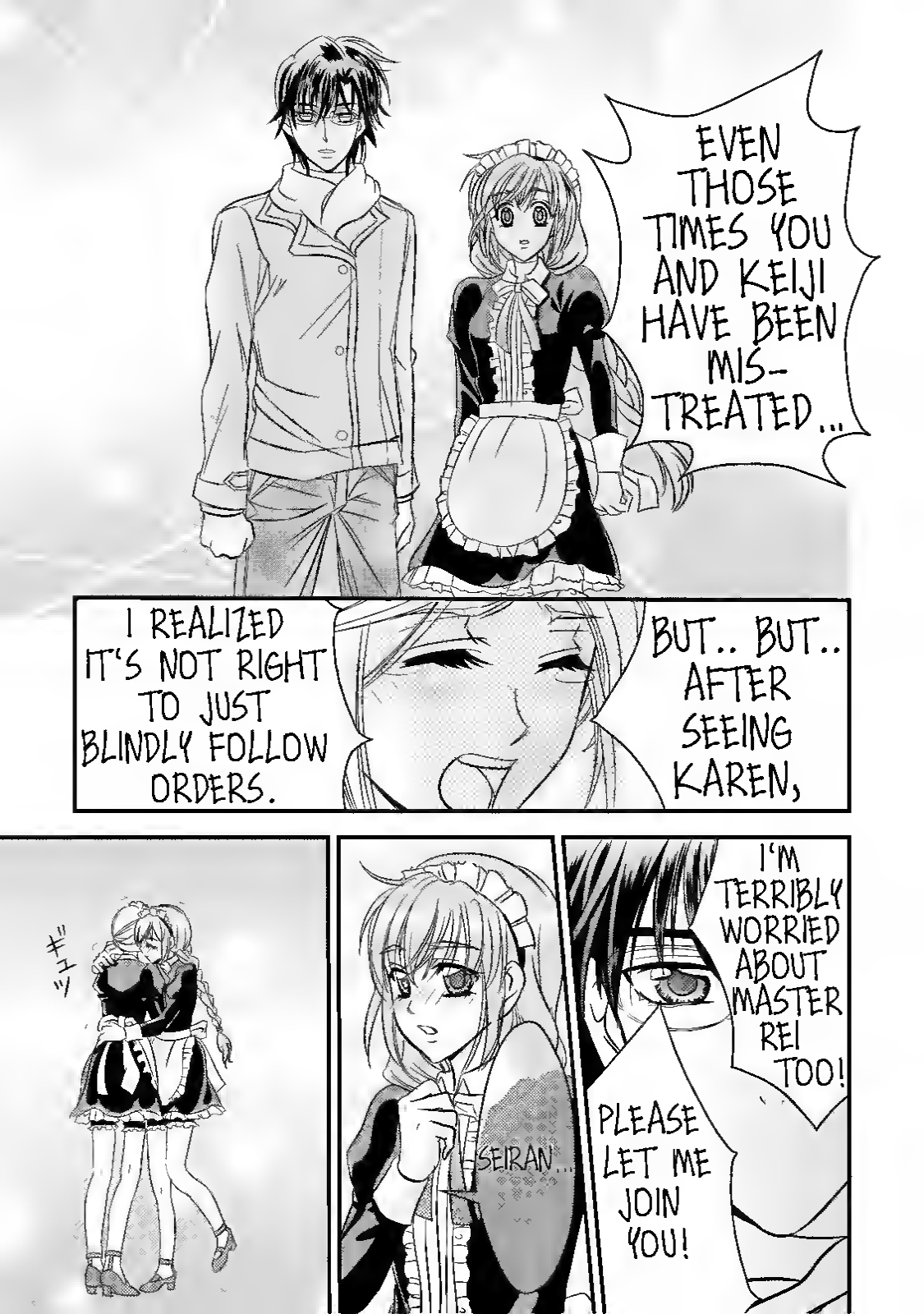
UM..
WELL...
IT WAS MY DREAM TO WORK HERE AS A MAID.
AND...
...TO FULFILL OUR PROMISE.
SO DO WE HAVE PROMISE?
YEAH...I PROMISE.
...KAREN
YOU'VE GOT THE JOB, BUT IF YOU WANNA QUIT, NOW IS THE TIME.
AHOY!

BECAUSE...
WHY DID YOU EVEN HIRE ME?
WHAT ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT...!?
ABOUT WHAT HAPPENED AFTER I LEFT THIS HOUSEHOLD!!
MASTER KEIJI TOLD ME TODAY...
AND THAT SOMEONE COULD DEFILE THE POSITION OF HOUSEKEEPER THAT MY GRANDMA WORKED SO HARD AT.
THAT I WASN'T THERE
I COULDN'T BELIEVE WHAT I WAS HEARING,
BUT NOW I'M ANGRY
IF SOMEONE LIKE THAT EVER SHOWS UP AGAIN
I DON'T KNOW IF YOU'LL BELIEVE ME, BUT

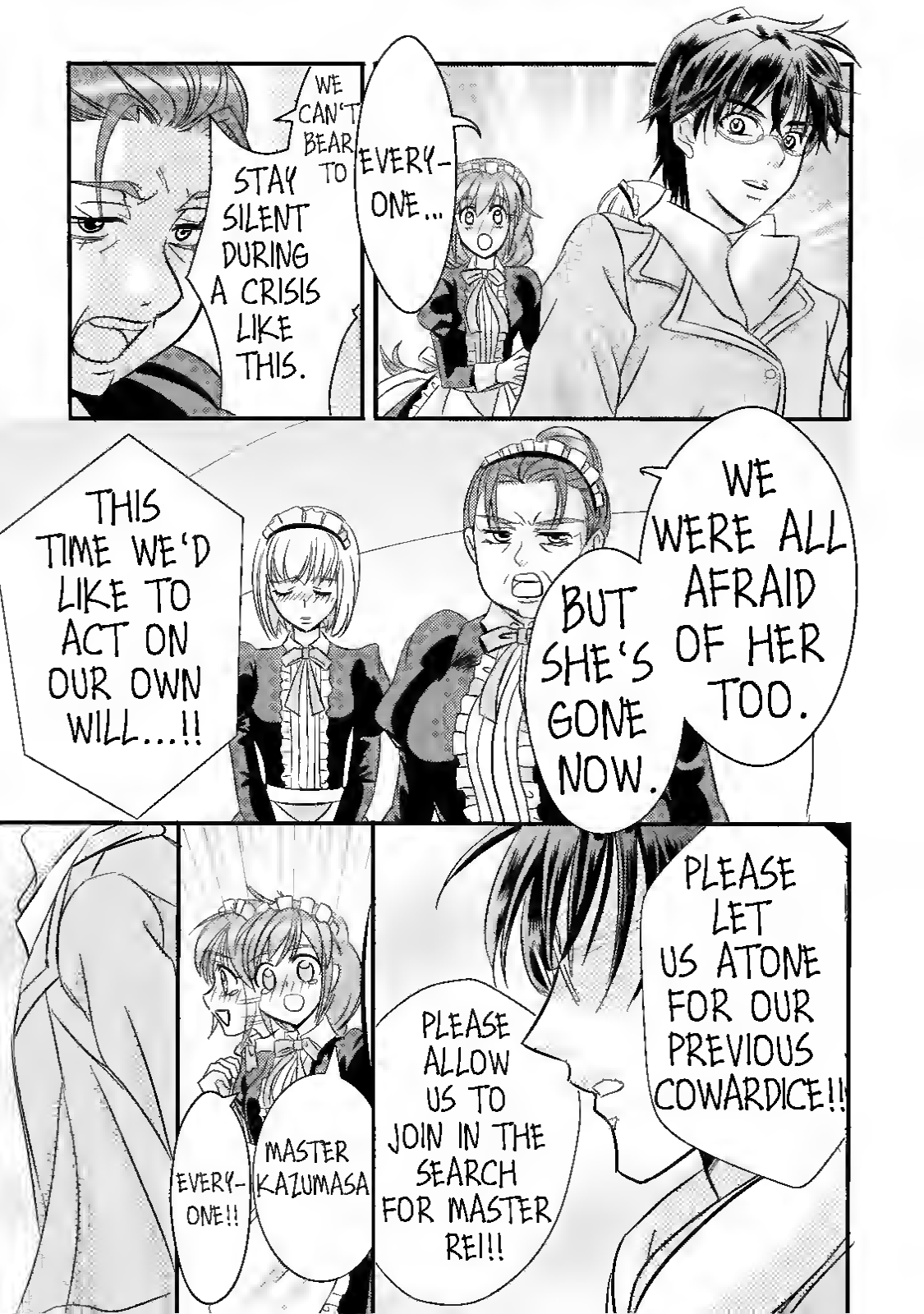
JUST LIKE GRANDMA DID!!
I WILL HUMBLY PROTECT MY MASTERS TO THE VERY LAST.
YOU BETTER BELIEVE IT!!
LIKE TAMI REINCAR-NATED.

YOU MAY HAVE TO WALK A DANGEROUS ROAD...
KAREN...
MASTER!!
I'VE GATHERED ALL THE STAFF IN THE MAIN HALL!!
THANK YOU. PLEASE WAIT WITH THEM THERE.
I...

I REFUSE.
WHAT'S THE MATTER MISS KATSURAGI?
UM...
I...
I...
PLEASE LET ME JOIN YOU IN SEARCHING FOR MASTER REI!!
SEIRAN..
I DON'T MEAN TO TALK BACK.
AND THIS IS THE FIRST TIME I'VE EVEN CONSIDERED DEFYING AN ORDER FROM YOU OR ANY OTHER SUPERIORS,


EVEN THOSE TIMES YOU AND KEIJI HAVE BEEN MIS-TREATED...
BUT.. BUT.. AFTER SEEING KAREN,
I REALIZED IT'S NOT RIGHT TO JUST BLINDLY FOLLOW ORDERS.
I'M TERRIBLY WORRIED ABOUT MASTER REI TOO!
PLEASE LET ME JOIN YOU!
SEIRAN...
ギュッ

MASTER KAZUMASA...
KAREN... STEP AWAY FROM MISS KATSURAGI.
EXCUSE ME, MASTER.
THIS IS MY DECISION.
WE'D LIKE TO JOIN YOU TOO.


WE CAN'T BEAR TO STAY SILENT DURING A CRISIS LIKE THIS.
EVERY-ONE...
WE WERE ALL AFRAID OF HER TOO.
BUT SHE'S GONE NOW.
THIS TIME WE'D LIKE TO ACT ON OUR OWN WILL...!!
PLEASE LET US ATONE FOR OUR PREVIOUS COWARDICE!!
PLEASE ALLOW US TO JOIN IN THE SEARCH FOR MASTER REI!!
MASTER KAZUMASA
EVERY-ONE!!

NOW?
MASTER KAZUMASA
!?
NOW? WHAT ON EARTH ARE YOU GOING ON ABOUT?
ATONE-MENT...?
YOU MEAN YOU ACTUALLY FELT GUILTY THEN?
YOU'VE GOTTA BE KIDDING ME.

MAS-
TER.
THEN YOU'D HAVE NO NEED FOR ATONEMENT.
WE'RE SO SORRY.
MAYBE WE WEREN'T QUITE OURSELVES.
SINCE WE LOST MADAME AND TAMI...
WHY DIDN'T YOU HELP WHEN WE NEEDED YOU THE MOST?
WE REMEMBERED THE OLD DAYS, AND REALIZED WE CAN'T GO ON LIKE THIS ANYMORE.
BUT AFTER SEEING KAREN'S FACE,

WHAT...?
KAREN
THAT'S ALL GOOD AND WELL
SACHIKO...!?
ISN'T IT TIME TO LET IT GO?
BRO...
BUT WE'LL SEARCH FOR REI WITHOUT YOU.
!?

I'M JUST SICK AND TIRED OF LIVING UNDER HER SHADOW.
BE-SIDES...
AND THEY JUST WANNA FIND REI AS SOON AS POSSIBLE...
EVERY-ONE HAS APOLO-GIZED TO US...
MASTER KAZUMASA!
MASTER KAZUMASA...
SUIT YOURSELF!!
I FELT LIKE MY HEART WAS GOING TO BURST.
LET'S GO.
HE JUST SAID THAT AND LEFT. I COULDN'T EVEN IMAGINE WHAT HE MUST BE FEELING...

EVERY-ONE, GIMME A HAND!
YES SIR!!
MASTER REI!
MASTER REI!
BUT BEFORE LONG, WE HAD FOUND REI.
ガヤ
ガヤ
I'M SO SORRY.
IT'S SO TYPICAL OF REI, FALLING ASLEEP IN A PLACE LIKE THIS...
NO-NOTH-ING!
?
HUH? WHY ARE YOU APOLO-GIZING, KAREN?
WE USED TO COME HERE ALL THE TIME AS KIDS.
ANYWAY THIS SURE BRINGS ME BACK...
YEAH.
IF I HADN'T TURNED DOWN HIS INVITATION TO PLAY, THIS WOULD PROBABLY NEVER HAVE HAPPENED...
SORRY, YOUNG MASTER...

I BROUGHT YOU HERE DELIBERATELY.
TO TELL YOU THE TRUTH
WHAT?
.....
IN THAT CASE...
LET'S BRING EVERYONE NEXT TIME.
WELL... MAY AS WELL.
EVERYONE!?
A FEW DAYS LATER...
ARE YOU SERIOUS?
THEY BROUGHT BACK THE POSITIONS?
YEAH, APPARENTLY THE POSITIONS WILL BE ESTABLISHED JUST LIKE IT WAS BEFORE.
BUT THAT'S NOT ALL. THE NUMBER OF OBSERVATION CAMERAS WILL BE REDUCED TOO. AND THE CAMERAS IN OUR PRIVATE ROOMS HAVE BEEN REMOVED!!

FINALLY WE CAN CHANGE CLOTHES WITHOUT ANY WORRIES.
REALLY?
THERE'S ALSO A RUMOR GOING AROUND THAT INDIVIDUAL SCHEDULES WILL BE ABANDONED.
IT SEEMS KAZUMASA HAS HAD A CHANGE OF HEART.
WHAT'S THE MATTER, KAREN?
NOTHING, I'M JUST SO HAPPY.
MASTER KAZUMASA!!
!!
I'M GONNA DO MY BEST TO...
KAREN...
BECOME A HOUSE-KEEPER YOU CAN DEPEND ON!!
THAT'S GREAT. NOW GET YOUR HANDS OFF ME!!
GRANDMA... WE'RE TAKING IT STEP BY STEP, BUT ME AND EVERYONE IN THE HOUSEHOLD ARE SLOWLY MAKING THINGS BETTER.

BECAUSE I'M A MAID! I

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